

SARAH E. COMLY.

MARCH 27, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. COFFIN, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 1810.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1810) entitled "A bill granting an increase of pension to Sarah E. Comly," beg leave to submit the following report, and recommend that said bill do pass, with amendments:

The claimant is the widow of Clifton Comly, late major Ordnance Department, United States Army. Major Comly died in service April 17, 1894, of disease originating in the line of his duty. He entered the United States Military Academy July 1, 1858, and after his graduation therefrom June 17, 1862, he passed through all the grades to the rank of major, which he held at the time of his death. He rendered distinguished service during the late war in the cavalry arm of the service until May 26, 1863, when he was transferred to the Ordnance Department, and remained there, rendering valuable and efficient service, until the date of his death.

The medical officers of the Army certify that his death was caused by cerebral hemorrhage, superinduced by overwork, he having (as stated by Surg. John Von R. Hoff) for more than a year staggered under a load of official responsibility much beyond the capacity of any man.

Mrs. Comly receives the pension of \$25 per month provided by the general laws for the widows of officers of this soldier's rank, but it is shown by the papers accompanying the bill that aside from this pension and the interest on a small life-insurance fund she has no means whatever for the maintenance of herself and the support and education of her young son.

The following amendments to the bill are recommended:

Change the title of the bill so as to read "A bill granting an increase of pension to Sarah E. Comly;" strike out the initial "C" where it occurs in the deceased soldier's name in line 6; strike out the word "fifty" in line 7, and insert in lieu thereof the word "thirty-five," and add after the last word in line 7 the words "the same to be in lieu of the pension now drawn by her."